



**EMBASSY OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**  
Beijing, China

AMBASSADOR

April 4, 2019

The Honorable Lamar Alexander  
Senator (R-TN)  
455 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Alexander,

During my confirmation hearings, one of the key issues raised was the scourge of fentanyl and other synthetic opioids destroying communities across America. Since taking up my post as Ambassador, members of Congress have urged me and my team to do everything within our power to stem the flow of fentanyl from China to the United States.

I am delighted to inform you that China's Ministry of Public Security announced China will make all forms of fentanyl a controlled substance effective on May 1, 2019. If implemented effectively, this will fulfill the commitment President Xi Jinping made to the President at the G20 last December in Buenos Aires. That commitment and this key development are direct results of your visit to Beijing, during which you highlighted China's role in the global opioid crisis. Separately, I have asked my staff to share diplomatic reporting with you that addresses China's action in greater detail.

Although much work still remains, this is a significant development in our bilateral relationship with China and an important step forward in stopping the flow of illicit fentanyl to the United States.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Terry Branstad". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

Terry Branstad